

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) In a computer, a method for adding additional information into a datafield

5 of an existing software record associated with a software table, the method ~~A computer-readable~~

~~medium having stored thereon a computer-readable program code comprising a sequence of~~

~~instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps~~

comprising:

forming a first user-defined data field structure, or first "UDF", the first UDF comprising:

10 a record identifier datafield,

a UDF identifier datafield , and

a first datafield;

storing a record identifier in the record identifier datafield;

storing a UDF identifier in the UDF identifier datafield; and

15 storing an additional information in the first datafield,whereby the first datafield is

associated with the record and the additional information stored in the first datafield is is [[may

be]] associated with the record and without modification of the table.

2. (currently amended) The method ~~computer-readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein the method

20 further comprises ~~computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of~~

~~instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps~~

comprising:

forming a metadata, the metadata ~~associated with the first UDF, and the metadata~~
comprising a classification of data type, the classification of data type distinguishing the data
type of the additional information stored in the first datafield; and

associating the metadata with the first UDF.

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3. (currently amended) The method ~~computer-readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein the method
further comprises ~~computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of~~
~~instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps~~
~~comprising:~~

10 forming a metadata, the metadata comprising a name, the name associated with the first
UDF and the name for use in software operations accessing the first UDF; and
associate the metadata with the first UDF.

4. (currently amended) The method ~~computer-readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein the method
15 further comprises ~~computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of~~
~~instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps~~
~~comprising:~~

forming a metadata, the metadata comprising a title, the title associated with the first
UDF and a ~~[[the]]~~ name for use in a visual display of the additional information of the first UDF;
20 and
associating the metadata with the first UDF.

5. (currently amended) The method ~~computer-readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein the method ~~further comprises computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps~~ comprising:

5 forming a class plurality of UDF's and wherein the first datafield comprises a class identifier of the class plurality of UDF's, and each UDF of the class plurality includes: the class identifier; a unique identifier of the UDF of the class plurality of UDF's; and

 a datafield, whereby each datafield of the class plurality of UDF's is [[may be]] associated with the first UDF and therefrom associated with the record, and information may be
10 stored in the plurality of datafields of the class plurality of UDF's and associated with the first UDF, and therefrom the information of the plurality of datafields of the class plurality of UDF's may be associated with the record and without modification of the table.

6. (currently amended) The method ~~computer-readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein the method ~~further comprises computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps~~ comprising:

 forming a plurality of UDF's;
 storing an identifier of the first UDF in the record identifier datafield of each of the
20 plurality of UDF's;
 storing a unique UDF identifier in the record identifier datafield of each of the plurality of UDF's; and

storing information in each of the first datafields of each of the plurality of UDF's,
whereby the plurality of first datafields of [[each of]] the plurality of UDF's are associated with
the first UDF and information is [[may be]] stored in the plurality of datafields and associated
with the first UDF, and therefrom the information of the plurality of datafields may be associated
5 with the record and without modification of the table.

7. (currently amended) The method [[computer-readable medium]] of claim 1, wherein the
method further comprises ~~computer-readable program code directs the computer to store~~ storing
a pointer in the record identifier datafield for use as the record identifier.

10 8. (currently amended) The method ~~computer-readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein the method
further comprises ~~computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of~~
~~instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps~~
~~comprising~~ forming a plurality of UDF's of user-defined fields, or plurality of "UDF's", each
15 UDF associated with a same record stored in the table; whereby the plurality of first datafields of
the plurality of UDF's are associated with the same record and information is [[may be]] stored
in the plurality of datafields and the information of the plurality of datafields may be associated
with the same record and without modification of the table.

20 9. (currently amended) The method ~~computer-readable medium~~ of claim 1, wherein the method
further comprises ~~computer-readable program code further comprises an additional sequence of~~
~~instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform steps~~

~~comprising~~ forming a data structure having a record, a List and a list user-defined field, or "List UDF", the List UDF relatable to the record, and the List UDF comprising: an identifier of the List UDF; an identifier of the List; and a data address of the List, whereby an information stored at the data address of the List is associated with the List UDF and the information may be stored or modified at the data address of the List, and the information is [[may be]] associated with the record and without modification of the table.

10. (cancelled) A computer system comprising:

a controller;

10 a memory, the memory communicatively coupled with the controller and the memory storing a software database and a software database manager;

the software database having data organized into a table of records;

a user-defined field stored in the memory for associating a datum with a record of the table, the user-defined field having a UDF identifier and a record identifier;

15 a metadata stored in the memory and associated with the user-defined field and the metadata specifying the data type of the datum; and

the database manager software program for directing the controller to merge the user-defined field with the record to associate the datum of the user-defined field with the record of the table.